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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00298 121623Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------121627Z 019492 /44
R 121224Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9786
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0298

STADIS//////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: EAID, EEC, OVIP, PO
SUBJ: SOARES' PILGRIMAGE TO JOIN EEC

1. PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES ASKED ME TO DROP BY LAST NIGHT, JAN 11, FOR A GENERAL CONVERSATION DURING WHICH HE FURNISHED ME WITH FOLLOWING ITINERARY FOR HIS VISITS TO EEC COUNTRIES IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE PORTUGAL'S ENTRY: 14-19 FEBRUARY, ENGLAND, IRELAND, DEMARK, AND ITALY; 6-12 MARCH, FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, AND BELGIUM.

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2. SOARES RAISED WITH ME AGAIN HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US TO ACCEPT ANNUAL AWARD OF INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, DURING WHICH HE WOULD HOPE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION. SUCH A VISIT COULD BE MADE EITHER AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS PROBABLY TOO SOON FOR US, OR AFTER MARCH 12. HE REQUESTED OUR VIEWS ON WHAT MIGHT BE BEST TIMING FOR PLANNING

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PURPOSES. I TOLD HIM I DOUBTED NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS IN POSITION YET TO ADDRESS ISSUE OF FOREIGN VISITS BUT WE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS SOON AS WE COULD GIVE HIM OUR BEST THINKING.

3. I TOLD SOARES I HAD DISCUSSED HIS EUROPEAN TRIP WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN AND WE HAD SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE TIMING VIS-A-VIS THE CONSORTIUM LOAN. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF COUNTRIES FELT PUT UPON BY SOARES TO GRANT PORTUGAL ENTRY INTO EEC, WITH THE STRAINS THAT MIGHT ENTAIL ON THEIR ECONOMIES, AT SAME TIME USG WAS ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER A LENDING CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF MANY OF THESE SAME COUNTRIES. SOARES SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM BUT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT OPPOSITION TO PORTUGAL'S ENTRY WAS DIMINISHING. EVEN THE MOST HOSTILE COUNTRY, FRANCE, WAS BEGINNING TO LOOK AT PORTUGAL'S ENTRY IN A NEW LIGHT. THERE WAS GROWING AWARENESS IN EUROPE THAT, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, PORTUGAL HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SEEK ENTRY INTO THE EEC AND THAT PORTUGAL'S ENTRY NEED NOT SET A PRECEDENT. SOARES WANTED TO BE VERY SENSITIVE, HOWEVER, TO OUR EFFORTS TO FORM THE CONSORTIUM AND WOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH US ON HIS EUROPEAN TRIP.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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SAS ID: 3616679
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Subject: SOARES\' PILGRIMAGE TO JOIN EEC
TAGS: EAID, OVIP, PORG, PO, EEC, (SOARES, MARIO)
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